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Real-Life James Bond

My Silent War, by Kim Philby (Grove. 262 pp. $5.95), Kim Philby: The Spy I Married, by Eleanor Philby (Ballantine. 174 pp. Paperback, 75¢), The Third Man, by E. H. Cookridge (Putnam. 281 pp. $5.95), and The Philby Conspiracy, by Bruce Page, David Leitch, and Phillip Knightley (Doubleday. 300 pp. $5.95), concern three British diplomats who fled to Russia—double-agent Kim Philby and his co-defectors, Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean. K. S. Giniger, a New York book publisher, served as a United States Intelligence officer during World War II and the Korean War.

By K. S. GINIGER

TODAY IN 1968 IT MAY BE somewhat difficult to recall that back in 1951 the war Americans—and Britons, too—were fighting was taking place in Korea, and that the name Senator McCarthy referred to Joseph R. McCarthy (1908-57). In the spirit of those times the disappearance of two British diplomats who had intimate knowledge of American secrets (and a rumored homosexual relationship as well) created quite a stir. A not-so-innocent victim of this stir was another British diplomat, who had been at Cambridge with Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, and whose career in the British intelligence services had already marked him for possibly its top post. This third man was named Kim Philby.

As a result of the Maclean-Burgess defection, United States Central Intelligence Director General Walter Bedell Smith threatened to break off relations with the British intelligence services unless Philby, then occupying the key British intelligence post in Washington, was recalled. Recalled he was, but handled with great care in Whitehall; even questions in Parliament, asking that the British government name the "third man" suspected of warning Burgess and Maclean that they were under suspicion, remained unanswered. Philby was given what the British call "the golden handshake"—generous separation pay—and helped to find another job as a journalist in Beirut.

What is known about his activities in Lebanon is mostly confined to his seduction of the wife of another journalist and their eventual marriage. In January 1963 he disappeared, and rumors about his work as a Soviet agent began to be published. The USSR announced in July of that year that Kim Philby had been granted political asylum.

The best and most readable account of Philby's activities—by Edward R. F. Sheehan—was published in *The Saturday Evening Post* in February 1964. The present crop of books about Philby derives from the deliberate Soviet effort in recent years to glamorize the work of secret agents, an endeavor that began with the issuing of a postage stamp carrying the image of Richard Sorge, the successful World War II Soviet agent in Japan. Philby was made available in Moscow, and the outside world learned, among other things, that he had shed the American wife he had acquired in Lebanon for the American wife of his great and good friend Maclean, and that he was writing a book to correct all the articles and other books which had been written about him.

That book is one of the four considered here. An apologia dedicated "to the comrades who showed me the way to service," *My Silent War* adds scant real information to the story and is distinguished principally by technical discussion of intelligence techniques of primary interest to those with more than an amateur's knowledge of such matters.

So much for "his" book. "Her" book, although the story of a woman betrayed, tells scarcely more than is indicated by such chapter titles as "The Other Woman" and "I Lose Kim," in that order. Published as a paperback and featured in a leading women's magazine, *The Spy I Married* does not quite manage to be either an espionage story or a tearjerker.

As a publishing operation, at least, *The Third Man* is more interesting. Issued here originally as a paperback, the furor in the English newspapers last fall about the Philby case apparently merited transformation of the book into this hardbound format. The author, E. H. Cookridge, is a professional journalist who, according to the jacket blurb, has known Philby over a period of thirty-three years. But, leaning heavily on the Sheehan article, he adds little to the record.

Of the four books, *The Philby Conspiracy* is the only one that can be recommended. A product of group journalism for *The Sunday Times* of London, the work by Page, Leitch, and Knightley (what a name for a Wall Street law firm!) is consistently exciting and reports as much of the story as is publicly known at this time. Even more to the point, the introduction by espionage novelist John Le Carré lends real meaningfulness to the entire exercise by raising two important questions.

The first is whether the "old boy" network in England makes it quite easy for men who have been to the "right" schools to betray their country, if they wish to do so, and enjoy the protection of otherwise honest colleagues who cannot believe that men of their own kind can be traitors. This is not solely a British problem. Not long ago, the son-in-law of a distinguished American governor serving as New York City's Commissioner of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity, pleaded guilty to a serious crime. No one had really bothered to check his credentials.

The second question concerns a mysterious fourth man. At Cambridge University in the 1930s someone unkown recruited three promising young men, Kim Philby, Guy Burgess, and Donald Maclean, as Soviet agents. Their activities, carried on for more than twenty years, have cost their country—and ours—much. Who was this man? Whom else did he recruit? And is he still at work?

Neither Philby's own book nor the other three give us any answers.

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